

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): An apparatus for holding an annuloplasty ring, comprising:

a holder body configured to the annuloplasty ring;

a handle coupling mounted with the holder body to couple the holder body to the a handle; and

a release mechanism integrally coupled to the handle coupling to release the handle from the handle coupling.

Claim 2 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 including a spring configured to bias the handle coupling into a lock position.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the release mechanism is configured to transmit a force on the handle coupling against the spring toward an unlock position.

Claim 4 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the handle coupling includes an opening formed therein to receive a tip of the handle.

Claim 5 (Original): The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the tip is locked within the opening.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the handle coupling is configured to couple to a protuberance at a tip of the handle.

Claim 7 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the holder body includes an opening to receive the handle.

Claim 8 (Original): The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the opening is non-circular.

Claim 9 (Original): The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the opening is tapered.

Claim 10 (Original): The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the surface around the opening is raised to provide a gripping surface.

Claim 11 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the handle coupling is configured to slide within the holder body in a direction generally parallel with a plane of the holder body.

Claim 12 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 including a handle.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 12 wherein a tip of the handle includes a protuberance configured to engage the handle coupling.

Claim 14 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the release mechanism comprises a button.

Claim 15 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the handle coupling comprises a clip.

Claim 16 (Original): The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the clip is slidable within the holder body and provides a locking and release mechanism.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a A handle for coupling to an the apparatus for holding an annuloplasty ring used in implanting a heart prosthetic, comprising:

an elongate shaft, a gripping portion coupled to one end of the elongate shaft, the gripping portion including ribs; and

a tip coupled to the other end of the shaft, the tip including a protuberance configured to be locked in the apparatus and an abutting surface configured to abut the apparatus.

Claim 18 (Currently amended): The handle apparatus of claim 17 further comprising flat portions.

Claim 19 (Currently amended): The handle apparatus of claim 18 wherein the tip includes walls and the flat portions of the handle are aligned with the walls of the tip.

Claim 20 (Currently amended): The handle apparatus of claim 17 wherein the tip includes walls.

Claim 21 (Currently amended): The handle apparatus of claim 20 wherein the walls are tapered.